

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area.

In addition, cable operators have dragged their feet in providing 100% 'True Digital' signals (AT&T Broadband, for example, misleads consumers by advertising Digital broadband, but the lower 60 channels are still analog, which is about 1/2 the signal quality of satellite true-digital media).

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite for all Americans, not just those fortunate to live in areas that are 'hard-wired' for Internet Access.

I appreciate your consideration of my views. While not normally a person to promote big business consolidation, I feel this effort is worthwhile because pricing will be uniform across the nation.

Sincerely,

Robert McDonald
1202 Spyglass Pkwy
Vallejo, CA 94591